

REMARKS

Claims 25, 27 and 28 are now presented for examination. Claims 1-5, 9-16, 18-24, 26 and 29 have been canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 25, 27 and 28 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 25, 27 and 28 are independent.

On page 9 of the Office Action, Claims 25, 27, and 28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 25, 27 and 28 have been a rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of base claim 23 as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the claim objections are believed to have been overcome placing Claims 25, 27, and 28 in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

All other objections and rejections in the Office Action are overcome and rendered moot by the cancellation of Claims 1-5, 9-16, 18-24, 26 and 29 without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter. Accordingly this amendment is a proper amendment after final rejection as it places the application in condition for allowance, which the Applicant respectfully requests.

Reply Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116  
Expedited Procedure - Group Art Unit : 3732  
Application No. 10/026,667  
Filed: 12/21/2001  
Attorney Docket No.: 17147-11

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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